

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 107-130 and 132 were under consideration. Claims 114-115, 126-130 and 132 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled subject matter in one or more divisional or continuation applications. Claim 107 and 116 have been amended. Applicants submit that no new matter is added by the amendment.

Amendments to Claims

Claim 107 has been amended to include all limitations of Claim 115 which has been canceled.

Claim 116 has been amended to recite that removing and replacing Z comprises reacting molecule (III) with H₂ and palladium to form a molecule (IV) in a first step and reacting molecule (IV) with H₂ and palladium and glyoxylic acid monohydrate in a second step. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification (of the published application 2005/0002945) at least at Paragraphs [0213] and [0214].

Claim Rejections

Claims 107, 108, 110, 111, 113, 114, 116, 119, 120-125, 129, 130 and 132 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 102(b) for being anticipated by Platzek-1 (U.S. 6,080,785). Claims 107-130 and 132 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 for being obvious over Platzek-1 and Platzek-2 (U.S. 5,676,923).

The Action stated that Claim 115 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. While Applicants traverse both these rejections, in the interest of advancing prosecution Applicants have amended Claim 107 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 115 (and the intervening Claim 114) and have canceled Claims 114 and 115. Therefore, amended Claim 107 should be seen as allowable. Since all remaining pending claims depend from amended Claim 107 and include all limitations of that claim, these should also be seen as allowable.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, all claims under examination are now allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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